or very low erucic acid (a long fatty acid chain), and zero or very low glucosinolate. Erucic acid is considered to affect the nutritional balance of the oil composition, and glucosinolate is harmful to all animals except the ruminating ones.

Recognising the need for developing canola quality of rapeseed i.e. with zero or low erucic acid and zero or low glucosinolate, the ICAR is according due priority to the development of rapeseed mustard varieties of '00 quality.

Brackish Water Prawn Culture

4240. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote Brackish Water Prawn Culture in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the direction;

(c) the schemes in hand with the Government at present; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

The Government of Orissa has informed that about 32,600 ha. brackish water area is suitable to promote prawn culture in the State.

(b) Some of the important steps taken are:—

(i) The State has set up 4 Brackish Water Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (BFDAs) in the coastal districts to provide technical and financial support to the prawn farmers, sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Brackish water Fish Farm Development'.

(ii) A training centre has been set up at Paradeep to impart training on brackish water prawn farming to farmers.

(iii) To meet the demand for prawn seed, 3 prawn seed hatcheries with a total production capacity of 330 million prawn seed have been set up in the State.

(c) snd (d) Under the World Bank assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project under operation in Orissa, there is proposal to develop 1484 ha. of brackish water area at Jagatjore Banapada in Kendrapada District and Bieipur and Narendrapur in Bhadrak district. Besides, there is also a proposal to establish six medium capacity prawn seed hatcheries. The total estimated cost of the project in Orissa is about Rs. 4085 crores.

Expenditure Incurred on Sending Experts Abroad

4241. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Experts, scientists and officials sent abroad at Government cost for studies, conferences etc. during the last three years; and

(b) what is the amount of money spend on the foreign visits of these above mentioned persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Hosue.

Export of Cereals

4242. SHRI K.M. KHAN:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that experts in farming and milling are of the view that India could increase its export of cereals by 300 per cent in three years if given the incentives and inputs; and

(b) if so, what is the current position in relation to the export of cereals and what steps are being taken to realise this aim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The export of cereals especially rice, has registered significant growth during the last three years. To facilitate the exports, restrictions like minimum export price and quantitative ceilings, have been progressively relaxed.

Subsidy to Agricultural Sector

4243. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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